

everydayHEROES

Simeon

Luke 2:25-32

25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. 30 I have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared for all people. 32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"

Waiting is the hard work of hope!

2 Kings 4:6, NIV

When all the jars were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another one." But he replied, "There is not a jar left." Then the oil stopped flowing.

While We Wait...

- Create **SPACE** in your life for the presence of God.
- Be faithful with what is in **FRONT** of you.
- Remember: God remains **ACTIVE!**

How to receive forgiveness from God:

- 1) Admit you, like everyone else, need a new life in Jesus.
- 2) Ask God to forgive your sins by the sacrifice of Jesus.
- 3) Receive new life from God by trusting in Jesus as your Savior & Lord.

You can do that now by simply talking to God in a prayer like this:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. Today, I receive you as my Savior; and I put my faith in you as my LORD. Help me to live for you all the days of my life. In your name, Amen.

If you chose to follow Jesus today, text "FAITH" to 309-250-2007 to receive additional information about next steps in following Jesus.

For Further Reflection:

- Read through Simeon's story found in Luke 2:25-35.
 - Does Holy Spirit reveal anything to you as you reflect on this story?
- Pastor Josh mentioned the statement "Waiting is the hard work of hope." Have you found this to be true?
- Have you ever considered that the 'transition page' between the Old and New Testament represents 400 years of history? Put yourself into a Jewish mindset: How might it have been tempting to lose hope in the waiting?
- On the flipside: How must it have felt for Simeon to meet Jesus after waiting so long for that moment?
- Pastor Josh mentioned that God shapes us in ways that can only happen in seasons of waiting. In your experience, what has God revealed to you in times of waiting?
- Pastor Josh mentioned the Elisha story with the statement: "the oil did not run out in heaven... it was the emptiness that ran out on earth." What are some tangible ways that we can create 'emptiness' or space for God in our lives?
- What is God calling you to be faithful with right now?
- Take a moment right now to reflect on the last 24 hours: Ask God to reveal where He has been active in your life. Spend time praising His faithfulness.

*We exist to connect people to God,
to each other
,and to their purpose*

Pastor Josh Howard
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